

The President's Daily Brief

7 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Soviet

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Demonstrations by South Vietnamese war veterans pose the threat of serious unrest. (Page 3)

USSR

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The West Germans and Soviets are to initial their renunciation of force treaty today. (Page 5)

Soviet

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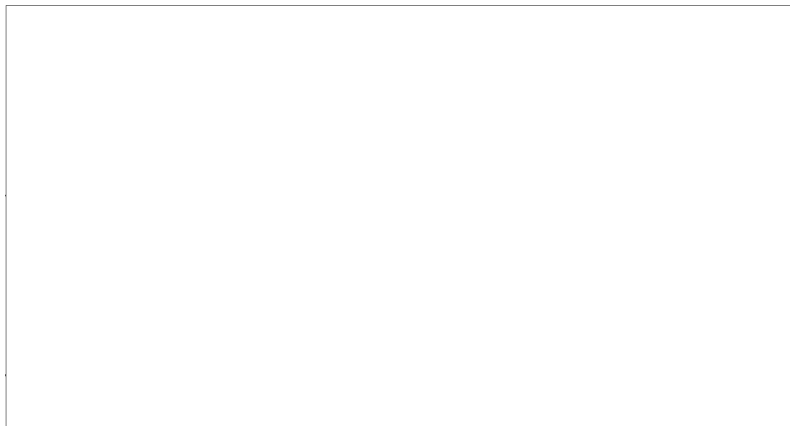
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Uruguay terrorists threaten to "pronounce sentence" on kidnaped foreigners unless the government meets their demands. (Page 7)

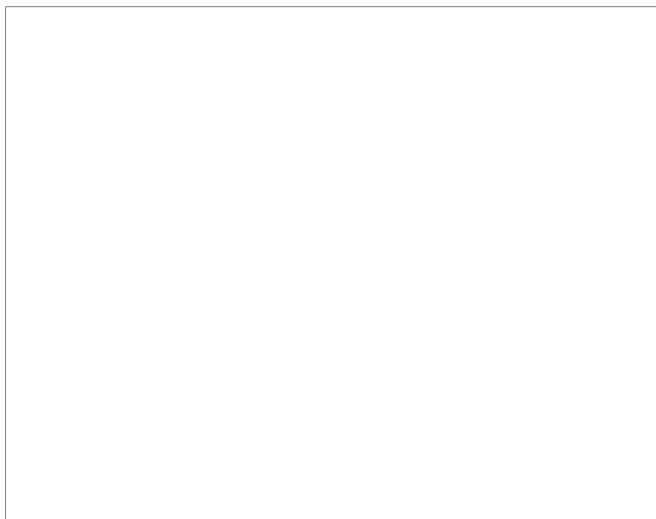
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USSR - MIDDLE EAST

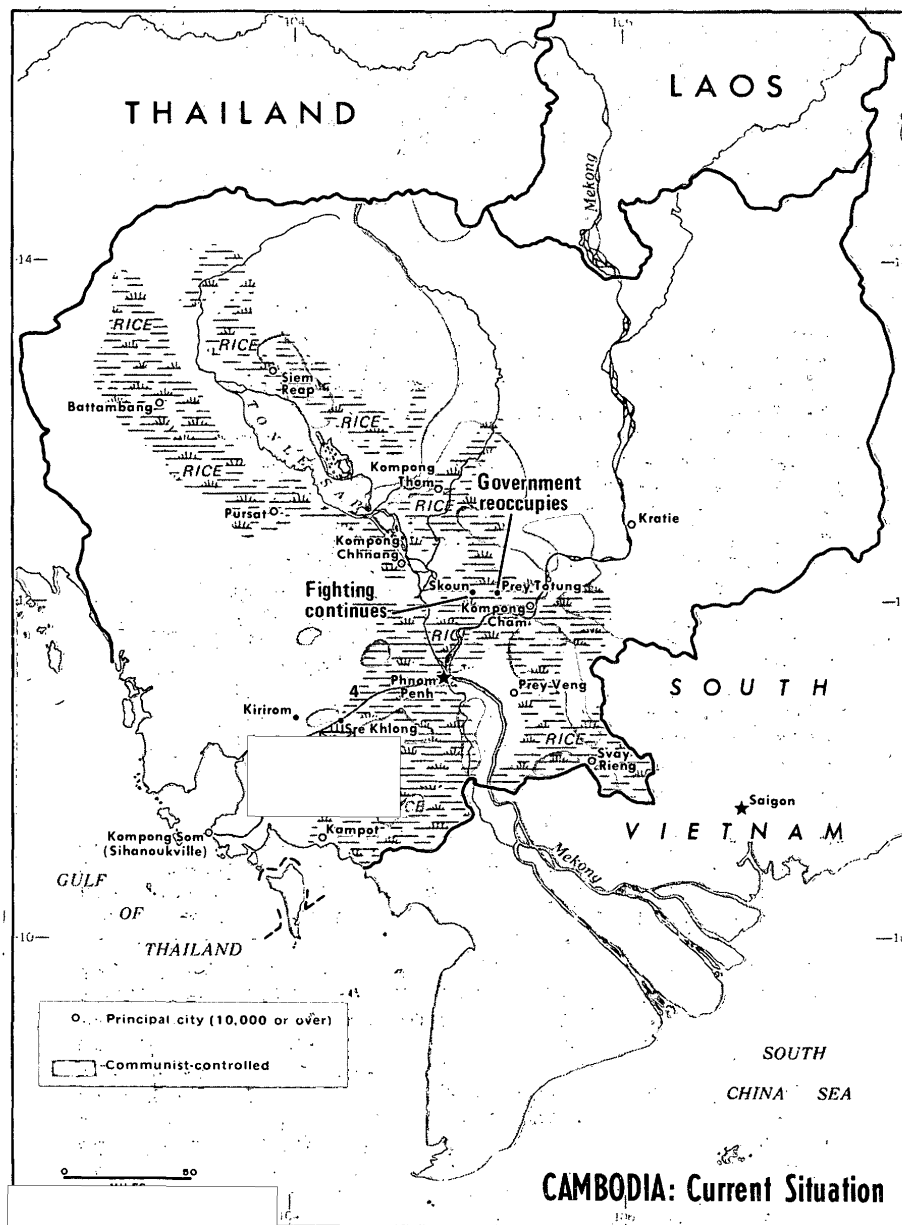


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CAMBODIA

Despite heavy air strikes, enemy forces in Skoun are still keeping government forces at bay. Three battalions of Khmer Krom troops from Phnom Penh had several sharp encounters with Communist elements less than two miles west of the town, but were initially unable to clear enemy roadblocks. On Wednesday, government forces fought their way back into the small town of Prey Totung on Route 7.

Communist pressure against Kompong Thom has subsided; the enemy directed only intermittent harassing fire on the city Wednesday night. Kompong Thom has had no electricity since its main power plant was destroyed on 31 July, and housing, food, and potable water are in short supply in that shattered city.

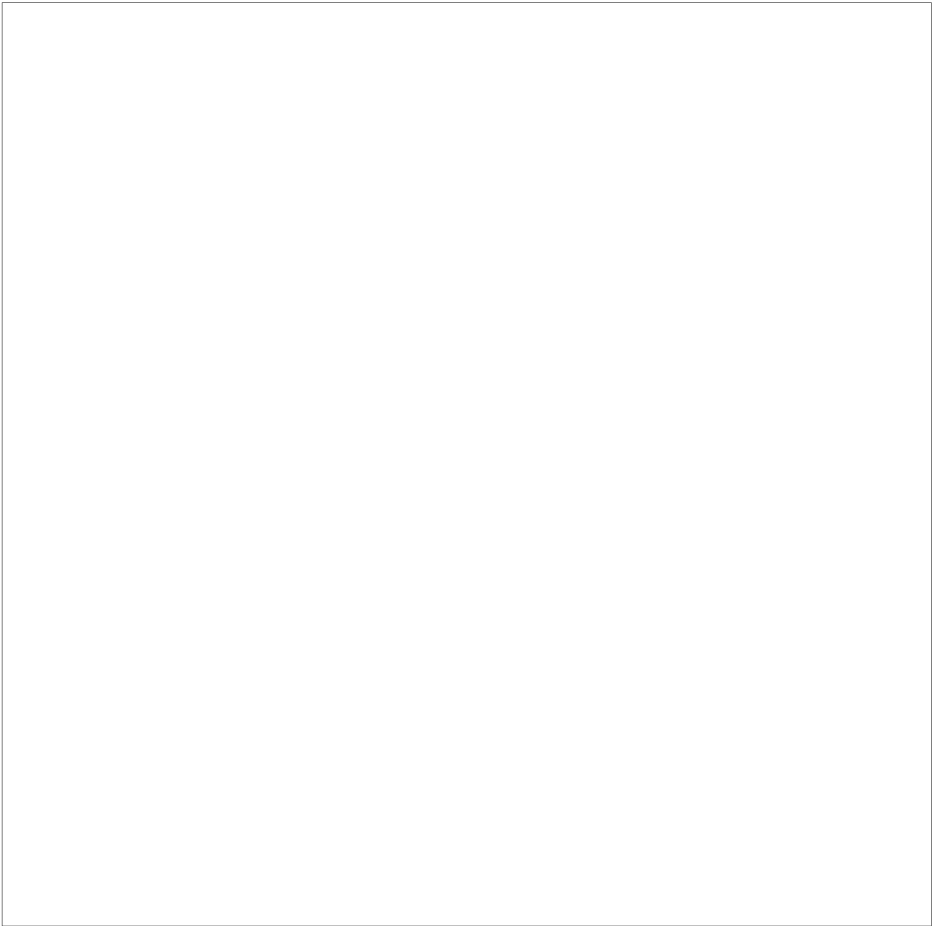
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SOUTH VIETNAM

War veterans went on a rampage in Saigon yesterday when they heard of government plans to tear down several thousand of their shanty-town dwellings. According to press reports, the veterans destroyed a provincial governor's office and held an all-day sit-in in front of the Presidential Palace. The demonstrators dispersed only after government officials promised to leave the veterans' shacks intact and to negotiate further with them. Even more violent veterans' demonstrations took place in Nha Trang city on Wednesday. The trouble there began when police demolished shacks being built by the veterans.

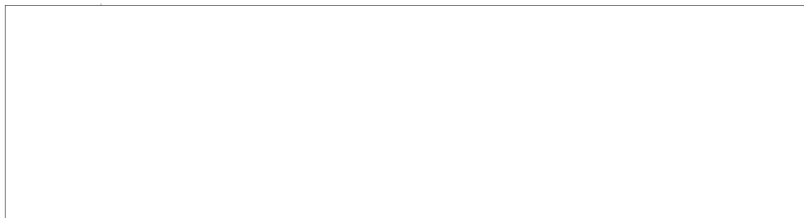
Unless the government cracks down on the veterans, the demonstrations could quickly deteriorate into the most serious unrest since early May. The government, however, is reluctant to use harsh tactics against the veterans because of the sympathy they enjoy in the army.



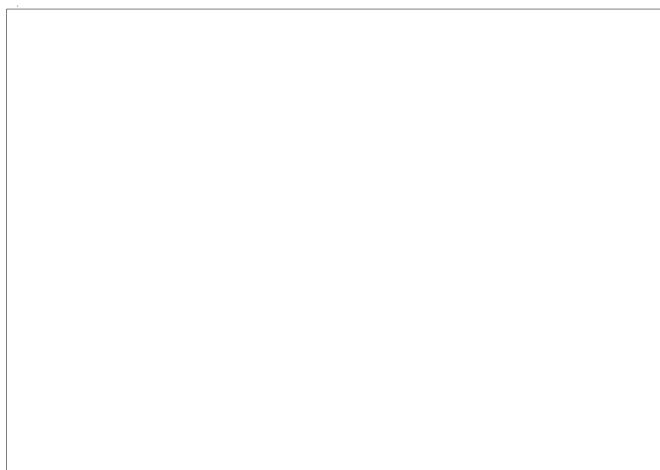
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USSR -- EASTERN EUROPE



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WEST GERMANY - USSR

The West Germans and the Soviets are to initial today a treaty renouncing the use of force that is little changed from the earlier Bahr-Gromyko draft. Foreign Minister Scheel has informed the Western Allies that consultation will follow in Bonn. Scheel's initialing of the treaty will virtually commit West Germany to signature, however.

Although the Western Allies have been seeking a reaffirmation of four-power rights in West Berlin and West Germany in connection with this agreement, the Soviets declined to publish any written statement on this subject in their own name. Instead, a West German note to the three Western powers is to quote from oral statements on four-power rights by the West German and Soviet foreign ministers, thus providing only an indirect reaffirmation.

Despite assurances from Scheel that he would deal with the need to indicate that the present treaty is not a final peace treaty, the latest draft text says nothing explicit on this question. Scheel has nevertheless suggested that the reaffirmation of four-power rights in itself implies that no peace treaty has been concluded since any such treaty would do away with those rights.

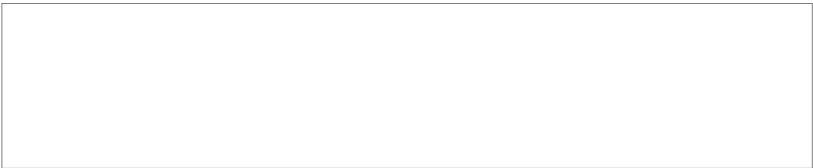
In addition, the text of the treaty has been adjusted to make the commitment to "respect" post-war borders appear as an amplification and specific application of the renunciation of force. This is intended to make the de facto recognition of borders seem less like a new concession or an anticipation of an eventual peace treaty, and hence more palatable to the West German public.

As planned earlier, the West Germans will issue a letter asserting the German right to national unity. Scheel now expects Gromyko to reply to the letter without contradicting the West German claim. The treaty preamble now also contains a reference to the 1955 Soviet - West German agreement. As this agreement mentioned the right of the Germans to national unity, Bonn will argue that reference to it provides further confirmation of German national rights.

The Soviets have made no major concessions. Nevertheless, the minor improvements of concern to Bonn may help to dampen criticism of the treaty in West Germany. If some agreement can be worked out on Berlin, this treaty stands a good chance of being ratified by the Bundestag.

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USSR-EGYPT



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NOTE

Uruguay: The Tupamaros have threatened to "pronounce sentence" on the kidnaped USAID official and Brazilian diplomat unless the government agrees today to release all political prisoners. The ultimatum, issued by the terrorists yesterday, insists that the government must agree to free its prisoners no later than midnight Tuesday and allow them to leave the country. Presumably, the captives would be released when the government complies with these terms. So far, President Pacheco is still refusing to negotiate with the kidnapers.

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